



NEW JERSEY  
WEEKLY CROP WEATHER  
New Jersey  
Agricultural Statistics Service

In Cooperation With:  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
U.S. Department of Commerce/N.O.A.A.  
Rutgers University

NOAA WEATHER RADIO STATIONS

- Allentown  
WXL-39 on the VHF-FM  
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
- Atlantic City  
KHB-38 on the VHF-FM  
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.
- New York City  
KWO-35 on the VHF-FM  
frequency of 160.55 Megahertz.
- Philadelphia  
KIH-28 on the VHF-FM  
frequency of 162.475 Megahertz.

NEW JERSEY AUCTIONS

- Vineland  
Phone: (856)691-0721  
Sales 10:00AM Daily except Sunday.
- Landisville  
Phone: (856)697-2273  
Direct Sales Daily
- Swedesboro  
Phone: (856)476-0313
- Hightstown  
Phone: (609)448-0193  
Direct Sales Daily

RUTGERS WEEKLY FORECAST

Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania  
Issued by Rutgers University New Brunswick NJ  
7 am EDT Monday, July 15, 2002

Rainfall amounts, little expected through Tuesday.

Winds for spraying, becoming west 10 to 15 mph today, northwest 5 mph tonight, north 10 to 15 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent, 40 to 50 today, 90 to 100 tonight, 40 to 50 Tuesday.

Dew points, mid 60s today, mid 60s tonight, upper 50s Tuesday.

Drying conditions, very good today, very good Tuesday.

Frost freeze or dew, light dew tonight, light dew Tuesday night.

Percent of possible sunshine, 80 today and 80 Tuesday.

There is a 10 percent probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm that could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rainfree period after application.

Hay cutting will see very good drying conditions with little threat of rain through the middle of the week.

Estimated soil moisture in percent of field capacity remains low over most areas and will continue to decrease and therefore the need for irrigation will continue widespread with little rain expected for the next couple of days.

Conditions do not appear favorable for the occurrence of cranberry scald today but may be favorable Tuesday.

The latest 6 to 10 day outlook for the period July 20, 2002 to July 24, 2002 is calling for temperatures to average near normal and precipitation to total above normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 7/15/02

Temperatures averaged below normal. Extremes were 97 degrees at Toms River on July 10, 2002 and 48 degrees at Long Valley on July 12, 2002.

Weekly rainfall averaged 0.16 inches north, 0.29 inches central, and 0.85 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 1.00 inches at Seabrook on July 9, 2002 to July 10, 2002.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 56 percent north, 47 percent central and 46 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 71 degrees north, 74 degrees central and 74 degrees south.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING 8 AM MONDAY 7/15/02

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days 1/		Soil Moisture 2/
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week						
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*	Total	Dept.*	
- Inches -										

\*Departure from normal.  
1/ Growing degree days since March 1, total and departure from normal or long term average.  
2/ Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

AGRICULTURE

Weather conditions were cooler in comparison to previous week’s extreme heat. Clear skies provided excellent hay, blueberry, and vegetable harvest conditions in most localities. Cooler weather also provided relief to livestock. Outdoor activities included combining wheat, cutting and baling hay, and harvesting blueberries and early vegetables. Days suitable for field work averaged 6.8. Top soil moisture was rated 54% short and 46% adequate. Corn silked 12%. Corn condition was rated 40% fair and 60% good. Stalks in some corn fields showed dry weather stress. Producers hoped beneficial rains fall soon. Soybeans blooming 10%. Soybean condition was rated 6% fair and 94% good. Late planted soybeans showed more drought stress than early planted fields. Dry weather conditions allowed hay producers to make good progress on their second cutting. Third hay cutting activity began in some fields. Pumpkins began to vine and spread in most fields. Tomato harvest began in fields planted under plastic. New Jersey’s blueberry harvest should wrap up by the end of this month. Hopefully, prices will hold and not be in competition with Michigan’s blueberry crop.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT	0%	20%	0%
SHORT	54%	80%	12%
ADEQUATE	46%	0%	88%
SURPLUS	0%	0%	0%

RANGE AND PASTURE

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY POOR	0%	0%	0%
POOR	13%	3%	0%
FAIR	31%	68%	17%
GOOD	56%	29%	83%
EXCELLENT	0%	0%	0%

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR JULY 15, 2002

**Blueberries** – Mainly harvesting Bluecrop variety for at least the next several weeks. Quality has been excellent.

**Cabbage** – Green, Red, and Savoy available in quantity and quality. Volume beginning to lessen with the hotter weather.

**Cantaloupes** – Hot weather caused them to ripen in some quantity last week with quickly increasing volume expected this week with the anticipated hot weather forecast.

**Collards & Escarole/Endive** – Good quality and decreasing quantity available now. Expect hot weather to cause lighter quantities to be available in mid-Summer. Will be available throughout the Summer.

**Cucumbers** - Good quality and lessening quantity available. Some growers starting to plant now for Fall harvest.

**Eggplant** – Quantity beginning to increase with hot weather. Volume available next week.

**Green Beans** – Good quality but less quantity available now with hot weather.

**Herbs** – Lighter quantities available now for Cilantro, Dill, Arugula, and Baby Arugula with hot weather stretches causing some mid-Summer light availability of these and other herbs. Some herbs though, like Basil, Mint, and Mustard like the hot weather and thrive in this kind of heat. Expect most herbs other than Arugula to be available all Summer.

**Leeks** - Good quality and quantity of Southern transplants being dug now so the normal short in availability from mid-June until mid-July has not occurred this year. Spring planted varieties due later this week.

**Napa Cabbage** – Quantity and quality available now.

**Nectarines** - Early varieties such as Eastern Glo, and then Summer Beaut, beginning this week. Mid-August is the heaviest volume time with great quantities of Red Gold and Fantasia varieties available then. Available through the end of August.

**Peppers** – Hot weather has caused quantity to increase quickly as volume available now.

**Pickles** (Kirby cucumbers) – Good quality and lessening quantity available. Some growers starting to plant now for Fall harvest.

**Shanghai Bok Choi** - Quantity and quality available now.

**Sweet Corn** – Harvest began with minor volume of early varieties two weeks ago in South Jersey. Quality and quantity of early varieties (6 ½” size), mainly for roadside market business, available. Quantity for supermarket buyers (8” size) beginning this week with Argent and Silver King varieties. Peak of season should be next week. Good wholesale availability until at least the week after Labor Day. Quantity and quality varies after that due to Fall insect pressures.

**Tomatoes** – Recent heat wave has caused a lot of field ripening with this week’s heat expected to do the same. Field grown volume continuing to increase in quantity but decreasing in price only slightly again this week. Prices are expected to begin to decrease as large volumes expected to ripen with the hot weather.

**Yellow Peaches** - Sentry variety harvest began two weeks ago with excellent quality and good size and color. Will be available in quantity this week. Red Haven and John Boy varieties showing good color and expected to be available in volume by next week.

**Yellow Squash** – Good quality and large quantity available.

**Zucchini** - Good quality and large quantity available.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

**Plum Tomatoes** – Harvest will start later this week. Quantity expected to build quickly over the next several weeks with the hot weather.

**White Peaches** - Early varieties become available next week with White Lady variety. Quality looks very good with excellent color. Blushing Star and Sugar Giant varieties should be available by mid-August followed a few days later by Lady Nancy. Snow Giant follows a few days later about the third week of August. Newer white varieties have better handling and shelf life characteristics than older varieties. Their lower acids create a different flavor profile and increasing demand from consumers have caused growers to increase plantings and volume produced by 10% a year for the last several years.

*\*Provided by the New Jersey State Department of Agriculture.*